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Rabotnichesko Delo.

## BULGARIA'S "STALIN" DAM

The "Stalin" Dam will be completed in 3 or 4 years. It will be 75 meters high and over 200 meters long. The dam will bar the flow of the Iskur River and will cause the formation of a lake which will be 75 meters deep and will hold 670 million cubic meters of water. The lake will have a mud bottom. When the dam is completed, the Sofia plain will be irrigated, and the capital, with its industrial enterprises, will be supplied with power.

Two tunnels will be dug in the area. Some of the Iskur River water, stored in the artificial lake, will go through one of the tunnels and set the turbines of the "Pasarel" Hydroelectric Power Plant in motion. This tunnel will be more than 5 kilometers long. The second tunnel, which will be 5 kilometers long, will lead to the village of Kokalyane, where a hydroelectric power plant will be constructed.

The main irrigation canal will begin at the "Kokalyane" Power Plant. It will be split into two canals near the village of Pancharevo: the Iztochen Glaven Kanal (Main Eastern Canal) and the Plavatelen Kanal (Navigable Canal).

The former will pass near the villages of German, Dolni Lozen, and Novi Khan. It will make a turn through the village of Doganovo towards the base of the Stara Planina Mountains. From there, going westward, it will pass through the fields of Gorni Bogrov, Botunets, Kremikovtsi, and Svetovrachene, and finally it will flow toward the Danube and Iskur rivers.

The latter will be 16 kilometers long and will end near Pavlovo. From here it will head as an irrigation canal toward the fields of Peturch and will flow eventually into the Blato River.

A water level-regulating reservoir will be built near the seminary. There, the small boats sailing for Pancharevo will stop, and the water will flow by means of pressure pipes to the turbines of the "Orlov Most" (Eagle's Bridge) Hydroelectric Pc. r Plant, which is located near the "Park na Svobodata" (Freedom Park) Lake.

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Work is proceeding on the new Iskur River bed, through which the water will flow when the "Stalin" Dam is erected.

A concrete factory will be built on the left slope of the dam. An installation for sifting gravel is being built at the level of the river bed at the right side of the dam. The sifted gravel will be sent to the concrete factory on conveyor belts. The unsifted gravel will be shipped out on a narrow-gauge railroad line. The machine and carpenter shops are also located near the dam. Day and night, a cement mixer sends cement and a blower sends fresh air into the tunnel which is under construction nearby /near Pasarel?

The tunnel which is being dug from three sides, has progressed 200 meters and has an opening 10 meters in diameter. At the middle of the tunnel, a scaffold supported by re-enforcing beams has been set up. Rails have been laid on the planks of the scaffold, and trolleys pushed by workers move on them.

The farthest corner of the tunnel where the main digging is going on, is called the "Korean front" by the workers. Due to the disintegration of the rock layers the pressure is so great that the diggers sometimes have to change the supporting beams twice in  $2^{\rm h}$  hours.

The project is under the constant supervision of the Soviet specialists.

The following sketch shows the location of the "Stalin" Dam and the canals.

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"Stalin" Dam

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